

6 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, Intelligence

THROUGH: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

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I. Purpose

Area Familiarization in Africa South of the Sahara was the purpose of the trip.

II. Activities and Findings

A. The trip took place in the dry season, a necessary condition if one is to do much cross country or motorable trail travel. I departed from Washington on 27 June and returned on 16 September, having shortened the Africa phase of the trip by one week because of a back injury.

Approximately 6500 miles were covered on the ground, and many more miles by air, including a low level flight in the Belgian Congo. Particular attention was focused on the following regions:

- a) the Katanga in the Belgian Congo
- b) the Copper Belt of Northern Rhodesia
- c) the Southern Nyasaland Region
- d) the Transkei of South Africa
- e) the Kenya-Tanganyika Frontier Region

B. The Belgian Congo impressed me more than any other country visited because: 1) the Belgians were concentrating on finding a working social, economic, and political accommodation with the African population, and 2) the resource base for the attainment of a working solution is present within the Belgian Congo itself, notably the Katanga. The psychological effects of this resource base on the Belgians themselves are wide, and contribute to their feeling that there is wealth enough present to achieve an accommodation between themselves and the African in the face of the rising tide of Black Nationalism in Africa.

Thus far the Belgians are said not to have made an irretrievable political mistake, and not to have given the native much basis for complaining about the distribution of the wealth of the Congo. All this may well be true and yet not guarantee that either the Belgians or ourselves will not be rudely awakened as to upheaval against the old order in the Congo. Our knowledge of urban native attitudes on certain political and economic points is admittedly weak, and the Belgians do not show much interest in having the United States develop enough native contacts to be well informed. We are ignorant about African attitudes towards the distribution of the wealth of the Congo.

The outstanding foreign effort concerned with the future direction of the Belgian Congo is that of the South Africans. They are actively working for a partition of the Belgian Congo by which the Katanga, or chief mineral area of the country, would align itself to the neighboring Copper Belt of Northern Rhodesia. This South African effort is hostile to Belgian direction of the Congo whether that direction be from Brussels or from Leopoldville. South African effort is also hostile to any United States influence in the Belgian Congo. The South Africans are working for the frontier of white dominance to be placed as far north as possible. They know that geologically and geographically the Katanga belongs to Southern Africa and not to the Congo Basin. Many South Africans are already in the Copper Belt of neighboring Northern Rhodesia. The South Africans are also well aware of the intention of many Rhodesians to secure more independence from London as soon as possible. A frontier of white dominance based on the mineral wealth of the Katanga and Copper Belt is one South African objective.

In the Congo my first journey took me by low level Cessna flight to Union Minière du Haut Katanga's sulfur electrolytic copper-cobalt plant near Kolwezi. Next I journeyed some 425 miles northwards from Elizabethville to Manono where the largest pigmatite mine in the world is located. The profit of this mine is sagged by the fact that 14 trans-shipments take place before the ore is loaded onto ocean going vessels. A large part of the Elizabethville-Manono route passes through a strategic military zone. There is fair surveillance by the Belgians within the zone. Other travels in the Congo took me to Kipushi and finally into the adjoining Copper Belt of Northern Rhodesia.

Visits were also made to the Keyberg Agricultural Station and to the Comité Spécial du Katanga. One of the more far reaching Belgian efforts in the Congo concerns agricultural development. I visited the experimental station at Keyberg where I went through the agronomy and breeding sections. At Keyberg I was effectively introduced to the limitations, as well as the potentialities, nature has placed upon both African and European agricultural

effort in the Katanga. It is encouraging to see the practical Belgian mind face up to the negative as well as the positive aspects of the problems. The work of this and the other experimental stations is showing what is fancy and what is fact.

At the Comité Spécial du Katanga I was able to talk to M. Van de Steen, Geologist, Head of CSK Mines Service. The chemical laboratory, and the sample and documentation departments were visited. Surveys done by CSK geologists are sent to leading Belgian geological societies for publication. This practice will be discontinued as soon as Société Géologique du Congo Belge et du Ruanda Urundi is moved from Bukavu to Elizabethville. This subsidiary of CSK will be put in the new University buildings which are to be finished soon. The society will be able to publish all local geological surveys. My impression is that Van de Steen is a cut above the average, definitely desires to start correspondence between the US Geological Survey and his organization, and could be useful in supplying the US Government with quality geographic and geologic information about the Katanga. In fact, M. Van de Steen spoke of his good relationship with the previous Consul, Mr. Murdock.

C. From Elizabethville I motored down to the Copper Belt to Northern Rhodesia in the company of Mr. J. C. Arundale, the US Consul at Elizabethville. After touring the area around Kitwe I proceeded on to Ndola, the town that copper built, and took in the Northern Rhodesia Trade Fair. I then proceeded by air to Salisbury.

After briefings at Salisbury I went by air to Blantyre in southern Nyasaland. There I journeyed to Zomba, the capital of Nyasaland, and thence traveled southeast to the Mozambique Frontier, passing through the Mlange and other tea estate areas.

Returning to Salisbury I set out on a 950 mile traverse which took me as far east as Untali, as far south as Zimbabwe, and as far west as Bulawayo. North of Untali new roads are being put in to encourage resorters to use the mountain area. Inasmuch as there is no direct land route west from Salisbury, a trip by air was taken to view the intervening land between that city and Victoria Falls. The Salisbury stint was concluded with a visit to the native agricultural school at Dombashawa in the company of the Agricultural Attache, Mr. P. O. Engebretson.

During my stay in Rhodesia the Chinese Communist trade delegation arrived and an informal deal jelled; the arrangements have since been concluded and the Chinese have opened a wedge for trade with another part of Africa. The Chinese delegation arrived with 26 cases of display materials. They, of course, were well aware of the current agricultural

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situation in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland whereby there was a shortage in the Nyasaland rice crop and a market needed for Rhodesian tobacco. The final deal, concluded on a 6 month trial basis, involves the importation of Chinese rice and exportation of Rhodesian tobacco and chrome. The Rhodesians really entered into the purchase of the rice in order to facilitate the Chinese purchase of tobacco. In the 2 months since my visit I find it interesting that the estimated Chinese purchase of Rhodesian tobacco has doubled. It is pertinent to note that local sources in Rhodesia consider it highly probable that the Chinese Communist purchases of Rhodesian tobacco will end up on the Australian market. In short, the Chinese Communists are acting as middlemen.

The copper companies told the Chinese that no copper was available. It is significant that the companies were approached at a time when there was a recession in the Copper Belt. This recession was being felt. There was some concern that the sending of the resultant native surplus labor back to the reserves was one way in which discontent could spread to rural areas.

D. From Rhodesia I proceeded to South Africa where I was able to log over 3,000 miles, exclusive of air travel. All travel was concentrated in the eastern part of the country. Most US personnel stationed in South Africa are keenly aware of South African problems. The casual visitor is impressed by the South African determination to maintain white dominance. This determination is weakened by the increasing enmity of the Afrikaner towards the English element. I gained the impression that the English element do not object to the aim of white dominance, but do think that the Afrikaner is unrealistic in finding a means to implement the policy.

Journeys in South Africa took me into the northern Transvaal, Zululand, and twice into the Transkei. Often times I was able to travel back roads in each of these areas. The port cities of Port Elizabeth, East London, and Durban were also visited.

My visits into the Transkei were the most interesting part of my South African itinerary. The Transkei, perhaps more than any other Native Reserve in South Africa, affords the best area to assess the present Government's policies toward Bantu development under the Bantu Authorities Act of 1951, and the Report of the Tomlinson Commission. I found the Transkei to be a rural slum region, disguised by beautiful scenery. The idea that economic development in the Transkei is taking place is a myth fostered by the South African Government.

E. From South Africa I proceeded by air to East Africa. A brief trip was taken to Zanzibar where I saw the agricultural station as well as the city itself. In Tanganyika I was able to travel over 600 miles by native bus into the interior.

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I was also able to pay a visit to the 6th Battalion, Kings African Rifles, Lt. Col. Swinton in command. At the time of the visit the Iar Es Salaam dock strike was in its last phase and this unit was ready for riot action if needed.

Proceeding from Dar Es Salaam to Nairobi I set out by land to Mombasa, thence traveled south and west to the Ngongoro Crater, east to Serengeti Camp, and thence east and north to Narok, covering nearly 900 miles. Although Narok District is Masai country the last two Mau Mau captured were found in this district. I returned to Nairobi injured. However I was able to examine the Consulate General's collection of materials on land redevelopment in Kenya. This subject is of increasing importance and one that is occupying the attention of local African politicians such as Mr. J. G. Kioko.

I departed for Washington on 15 September, having spent a total of less than 4 days outside Africa.

III. Problems or Difficulties.

None, aside from a back injury.

IV. Commitments

In response to a request for map intelligence aid by the Consul in Port Elizabeth, South Africa the best available maps will be furnished the new Consulate Offices there.

V. Recommendations.

None.

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